

To the Right Honourable the Lords and Others of his Maiesties most Honourable Priuie Counsell.

THe humble petition of *Thomas Crosse* Goldsmith on the behalfe, not onely of himselfe, but of the whole Bodie of Goldsmiths within the Realme of *England*.

Shewing that contrary to his Maiesties Lawes, to the wrong of the Common-wealth (and especially of his Maiesties Seruants, hauing the charge of his Maiesties Plate, Jewels, and rich furnitures, by daily experience it is probably knowne, diuers ill disposed persons doe imbecell and purloine siluer Plate of all sorts, both gilt and white, and also Gold in Jewels, Chaines, and Rings, and other worke & fashion of great value, who residing and lurking about the Court, the Citie of *London*, and other Cities and places within his Maiesties Dominions, doe make it their common trade of life to pilfer and cut off gold and siluer in lace frindge and imbroydering of siluer and gilt purle, and other stufte from Coches, apparell, and other things of great estate. And that diuers like ill-disposed persons do vnlawfully put to sale counterfeite Pearle and Stones, and course gold and siluer in severall Goldsmiths wares of lesse finenesse then is lawfull, and according to his Maiesties Standard. Which said offenders to colour and conceale their said facts of imbecelling and purloynng doe ordinarily and covertly pawne or sell the said Gold, Siluer, and Jewels, to Brokers, Enterlopers, petty Chapmen, and diues others of seuerall qualities, as Pedlers, Tinkers, Strangers, Forreiners, Fore-stallers, Gold-end-men, and women, Bagnien, Old-doublet men, & others, who haue of late attained to an vpstart Trade and cunning to burne or melt the said gold, siluer, and Jewels, which properly belongeth to the Goldsmiths Trade and Myttery, and by the said practice, doe deface, alter, and change the propertie; and often mixt course and counterfeite stufte therein, and then make sale thereof to Goldsmiths, without checke or suspicion, or in such Bullion transport the same beyond the Seas. And albeit warning begiuen of things lost and stolne (as in such cases it was wont to goe forth from Goldsmiths hall, for the commodities of Goldsmithry) yet by the said practice of the said Offendors (especially the Brokers) in buying and selling, and taking pawnes, burning and melting the said Commodities, the said Metals seldome or neuer come to light, the Owners of them are meereley cozened, the Malefactors themselues escape with impunitie and vntiscouered, and a continuall imputation and slander is vniuersally fastned vpon the Goldsmiths in their lawfull buying of gold and siluer in Bullion.

These grieuances and inconueniences are daily like to increase and multiply to the generall damage of the Commonwealth, if some good order be not speedily taken for Redresse. And therefore to the end that a speedy Reformation may be had and taken herein, and that his Maiesty, the Nobility, and Gentry in particular, and his loyall Subjects in generall may not be wronged or prejudiced, but that the Malefactors be discouered, and according to Law punished.

May it please your Honours to be an honourable meanes vnto his Maiesty, for the publishing of his Royall *Proclamation*, thereby vnder a certaine penalty prohibiting all persons of what quality soeuer, from putting to sale or wittingly wearing counterfeite Pearle or stones, or vttering or putting to sale course gold or siluer in any waies, or transporting any gold or siluer in Bullion in Jewels, or in any sort or fashion beyond the Seas contrary to the Lawes of this Realme: And likewise thereby prohibiting all persons as abovesaid (other then Goldsmiths or the Officers of his Maiesties Mint or others, licensed or to be licensed, so to doe for the Mint) from wilfully defacing, melting, or burning any gold or siluer, or stufte of gold, or siluer or altering the property of any Jewels, or from covertly buying or selling, changing or exchanging, pawning or taking to pawne any gold or siluer or Jewels, or the likes aforesaid, but of or with Free Goldsmiths at their Stalls or Shops, being the Market ouert for the said seuerall Commodities according to the tenour of the Charter of the City of *London*, and the Goldsmiths Charter of the said City, confirmed vnto them by Act of Parliament, in the first yeere of the Raigne of King *Edward the Third*, which was so done by the policie of the State in those times, for the preventing and auoyding of such like inconueniences and practices of fraud and deceit as aforesaid. As by the said Charter may plainly appeare. With a *Promis* to be inserted in the said *Proclamation*, that the Goldsmiths in all incorporated Cities, Townes, & places within his Maiesties Dominions may lawfully vse their Trades and Mysteries, according to their Freedomes, and Charters, and Liberties, and not otherwise then is thereby or may be hereafter prescribed to the Goldsmiths of *London*. Likewise with a Commandement to all Goldsmiths throughout his Maiesties Dominions to be careful and vigilant vpon their Searchs with warrant & power to be giuen vnto them for the apprehending of all such suspected persons as shal hereafter, offer or shew, or utter, or put to sale vnto the said Goldsmiths, or any others, course or counterfeite gold or siluer, or like wares or any wise shal trade, vse, or practice (other or otherwise then as is aforesaid) in the said recited Commodities: And also the Brokers & those of the said qualities as aforesaid, who shal hereafter or after a certain day in the said *Proclamation* to be prefixed be found vnlawfully to deal or offend in any the premises to bring with their goods before the next Iustice of Peace to be examined & bound ouer with Sureties to appeare at the next Sessions of the Peace to be holden within the City of *London*, or within any Countie where the Fact shalbe committed, or the party or goods apprehended or taken, there or in the high Court of Star-chamber to answer the Lawes and their contempt. Or otherwise may it please your Honours to order and set done some good course herein, as in your Honourable wiidomes shal be thought fit. And your Petitioner shall pray, &c.